



“Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold,

**now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation”
2 Corinthians 6:1-2**

The words of St. Paul come immediately following **2 Corinthians 5:21** **“For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”** In chapter 5:21, God reveals what Christ does to accomplish our salvation. Jesus, the One truly without sin becomes sin in our place that we would receive the righteousness of God. This is the complete and full assurance of God’s love for us in Christ.

Therefore, we are called, as people who belong to Christ who has redeemed us, to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in His church. Thus, what St. Paul writes (2 Cor. 6:1-2) is that we should not receive God’s grace in vain but understand today is the time of favor and of salvation.

Paul writes under inspiration of The Holy Spirit (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**) that God’s offer of grace is serious. The time of God’s grace is now through the Word. Today we live in a world of uncertainty. While this has always been true of every generation, we also know we are moving closer to the end. We only need to look around and listen to current events to realize the moral decay of our society and the lack of love demonstrated in our culture. Our call as Christians is to be in the world but not of the world. We are called by God to be different than the world around us. We are called to realize the day of salvation is now. We are called to share the good news of Christ with others at every opportunity. But often, we are discouraged by the world around us and our failures as well.

We must understand the Lord is the One who is always in control. God creates, sustains and extends His kingdom by His Word, and can do so without our help. Yet, He has called us to work in His kingdom. Trust in God and in His control, His knowledge and His almighty power in conducting the work of His kingdom. We do well to remember this part of Paul’s words written under inspiration of The Holy Spirit. **“I planted, Apollos watered, but it**

is God who gives the increase.” We are called in Christ to commend ourselves to God as workers in His Kingdom while at the same time understanding He gives it growth through the Word. As we understand this, we also realize and understand from His Word, that we who have been baptized into Christ are made members of His kingdom and buried with Christ and raised to new life to serve Him.

Now is the favorable time for salvation offered to us. Luther once remarked that the Gospel is like a passing thundershower which waters the earth never to return to the same place again (**Isaiah 55:10-11**). God would have us understand the urgency of proclaiming the Gospel to the lost and the importance of continuing to work in Christ’s church on earth that all would hear what Christ has done for them. There will be discouragements of every type as the unbelieving world grows more opposed to Christianity each day. Yet, we are called now to realize the day of salvation is present here and now in the Word and Sacraments by which God offers us Christ and His forgiveness. The day of salvation is now for those yet to hear of Christ as their Savior as we continue in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to all. God’s Word alone creates and sustains faith as **Isaiah 55:10-11** makes clear. Pray for all who are helping with VBS this year, for all who attend and their parents that all would know the saving work of Christ crucified, buried and risen. Consider helping as well, for God gives all of us various gifts to be used to His glory. The hymn writer reminds us of the urgency of proclaiming to a world that needs its Savior what God graciously invites us to do as we praise Him for His Grace given to us in Christ our Savior.

Hark the voice of Jesus calling	“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting	Who will bear the sheaves away?
Loud and long the Master calleth;	Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,	“Here am I, send me, send me?”

TLH 496 based on **Isaiah 6:8; Isaiah 55:10-11 & St. Luke 10:2**

God’s blessings to all of you as you serve our Lord Jesus Christ and work together in His Kingdom proclaiming the “favorable time of The Lord” for salvation which is found in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior! To God be all the glory!

In Christ, Pastor Ahrendt